

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for acquiring caller-specific information, said method comprising:
 - receiving a call for completion from a calling party;
 - querying a local cache for caller-specific information associated with said calling party;
 - obtaining said caller-specific information from said local cache if said caller-specific information is found in said local cache;
 - forwarding said caller-specific information to complete said call; and
 - querying a remote database if said caller-specific information is not found in said local cache, wherein said querying said remote database is performed by said local cache over a signaling network different from a communication network carrying said call.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said caller-specific information is a calling name of said calling party.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - obtaining said caller-specific information from said remote database.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, further comprising:
 - storing said caller-specific information obtained from said remote database in said local cache.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising:

defining a limited period of time wherein said caller-specific information obtained from said remote database is to be stored in said local cache.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Canceled).

9. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for acquiring caller-specific information, said apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a call for completion from a calling party;

means for querying a local cache for caller-specific information associated with said calling party;

means for obtaining said caller-specific information from said local cache if said caller-specific information is found in said local cache;

means for forwarding said caller-specific information to complete said call;

and

means for querying a remote database if said caller-specific information is not found in said local cache, wherein said means for querying said remote database is performed by said local cache over a signaling network different from a communication network carrying said call.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said apparatus is a switch.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) A system for acquiring caller-specific information, said system comprising:

a local cache for querying a remote database if caller-specific information is not found in said local cache over a signaling network different from a communication network carrying a call; and

at least one switch for receiving said call for completion from a calling party, wherein said at least one switch queries said local cache for said caller-specific information associated with said calling party, and wherein said at least one switch obtains said caller-specific information from said local cache if said caller-specific information is found in said local cache and forwards said caller-specific information to complete said call.

Claims 13. – 20. (Canceled).